

LEOYD, JOHN A.

MANUSCRIPT

SPEECHES

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Speeches Honoring Abraham Lincoln

John A. Lloyd

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
(formerly referenced as Manuscript Files)

Address by John A. Lloyd
to The Queen City Optimists Club
Cincinnati, Ohio
February 14, 1976

Why Lincoln?

On Monday, November 5th, 1860, Abraham Lincoln visited the Post Office in Springfield, Illinois, to get his mail. A bystander asked him how he intended to vote. Mr. Lincoln, who was the Republican nominee for President at the general election to be held the next day, replied: "For Yates for Governor." "But for President, how vote?" the bystander insisted. "By ballot!" Lincoln replied and walked away, his arms full of mail.

On election day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Lincoln walked to his precinct polling place after having spent most of the day in his temporary office in the State House. The voting booth was in the Court House

Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the
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For contact information, go to www.LincolnCollection.org.

Mr. Lincoln spent the evening in the telegraph office getting returns. The result was not long in doubt. The telegraph instrument clicked off the results steadily and by about eleven o'clock, Mr. Lincoln knew that he had been elected to be the 16th President of The United States.

Assured of victory, he walked the few blocks from the telegraph office to his home to tell Mrs. Lincoln the news. It was shortly after eleven o'clock. He lay down on a sofa to rest a few minutes, then, a little after midnight, he

Address of
John A. Lloyd
To
Queen City Optimists Club
February 12, 1977

Gettysburg Revisited

President Lincoln did not write the Gettysburg Address on a torn piece of borrowed brown wrapping paper while traveling by train to the ceremony of dedication although Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews wrote that he did in her emotional little book, "The Perfect Tribute." Her perpetuation of that legend made her and her publishers a good deal of money and established the myth as fact in the minds of generations of people all over the world.

Quite the contrary - the Gettysburg Address was days in preparation in t

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Two

secretaries, John G. Nicolay and John Hay. They were given to the Library of Congress in 1916 by Hay's children and are known as "First Draft" or "Nicolay Copy," and "Second Draft" or "Hay Copy."

The first page of the "First Draft" is written upon ruled stationery, approximately 7-1/2" x 9" in measurement and headed "Executive Mansion, Washington _____ 186 ____." The date is left blank. The last sentence on this page reads "It is rather for us, the living to stand here." The words

Fourteenth Annual
Lincoln Birthday Address
To
The Queen City Optimists Club

By

John A. Lloyd
February 9, 1980

LINCOLN IN CINCINNATI

Abraham Lincoln visited Cincinnati on three occasions.

The first was on September 19th in 1855 when he came here as counsel in a lawsuit. He stayed in the city nearly a week.

The second was on September 17, 1859 when he was invited by the Republican Committee to make a political address.

The third was on February 12, 1861. He was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated President. He arrived in Cincinnati about three o'clock in the afternoon and left the next morning to resume his journey to the national capital.

Fortunately, from the public records of the city, we can re

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... ..
fend it in an action brought against it by Cyrus H. McCormick,
the original inventor of the mechanical reaper, for alleged

18th Annual Address on
Abraham Lincoln by
John A. Lloyd to
The Queen City Optimists Club
February 11, 1984

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he"

Gentlemen of The Optimists Club and Guests:

One hundred and seventy-five years have passed since Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in a one room log cabin three miles south of Hodgenville, Kentucky. Several years ago the great cartoonist, Webster, pictured two farmers in Kentucky meeting that February 12th on a snow-covered road near Hodgenville and this dialogue ensues:

"ANY NEWS DOWN T' TH VILLAGE, EZRY?"

"WELL, SQUIRE MC LEAN'S GONE TO

WASHIN'TON T' SEE MADISON SWORE IN,

AN' OL' SPELLMAN TELLS ME THIS BONAPARTE

FELLA HAS CAPTURED MOST O' SPAIN

WELL, NO NEWS OUT HERE NEIGHBOR?"

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James Garfield Stewart made the Lincoln address to the Optimists Club that year and he told the story of the cartoon and Nancy Lincoln's having a baby and of the farmer's statement that "Nuthin ever happens out here". There he stopped for a second or so and said: "Nothing happens out here? Why the hand of Almighty God was in Hardin county that morning."

I referred to Stewart's eloquent comment on the cartoon in



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